

**THE CITY OF DEXTER
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

A. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Keough and was held at 7610 Ann Arbor Street Dexter, MI.

B. ROLL CALL:

Sanam Arab – Present
Paul Cousins – Absent
Donna Fisher – Present
Jamie Griffin – Present
Wa-Louisa Hubbard – Present
Zach Michels – Present
Mayor Shawn Keough – Present

Student Representatives:
Bonnie Keating – Present
Adam DiGregorio – Absent

Also attending: Justin Breyer, City Manager and City Clerk; Josh Tanghe, Assistant to the City Manager; Pamela Weber, Recording Secretary; Tim Stewart, Superintendent of Public Services; residents; and media.

Attending remotely: Grace Whitney, Associate Planner; Marie Sherry, Finance Director/Treasurer/Assessor, Michelle Aniol, Community Development Manager and residents.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. City Council Meeting – August 22, 2022

Motion Griffin; support Arab to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

Ayes: Arab, Griffin, Fisher, Hubbard, Michels, Keough
Nays: None
Absent: Cousins
Motion carries

D. PRE-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION

1. Constitution Week Proclamation

Mayor Keough introduced Ms. Sue Dancer who indicated that she represents the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) group that supports Constitution Week. Mayor Keough presented a proclamation to Ms. Dancer as that representative, recognizing September 17, 2022 as the 235th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America and marking September 17th through September 22nd 2022 as Constitution Week in Dexter, MI. Mayor Keough urges all citizens to take note of the observance.

Ms. Dancer thanked City Council and the Mayor for the proclamation in recognition of Constitution Week. She explained she is a member of the Sarah Caswell Angell chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR is a nonprofit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. The DAR sponsors scholarships for students, education initiatives, service to veterans, community service and commemorates events such as Constitution Week. Ms. Dancer recited the preamble to the United States Constitution and encouraged all to remember those words.

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion Fisher; support Arab to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Hubbard, Michels, Fisher, Arab, Griffin, Keough

Nays: None

Absent: Cousins

Motion carries.

F. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

H. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION

Daniel Schlaff 7939 4th Street Dexter, MI – indicated that he is excited to announce that he will be running for City Council in the upcoming November election as a write in candidate. He indicated that he has 37 years of experience working for the City and has lived in the City the majority of his life. He feels that his history, experience, and perspective make him a valuable addition to City Council if the voters choose.

I. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Upcoming Meeting List –

Council Member Michels reported that at the next CAPT/DART meeting someone from SPARK will be speaking, and in November someone from ~~Trial~~Trail Towns will speak.

J. REPORTS:

1. Public Services Superintendent – Tim Stewart

Mr. Stewart provided his written three-work report as per packet. Mr. Stewart provided the following update:

- A Council Member thanked Mr. Stewart for answering questions included in the supplement.
- A question was asked about why the new speed limit sign, as you approach Dexter, on Dexter Ann Arbor Road is still covered. Staff explained they are awaiting approval from Washtenaw County to permit the installation of “reduced speed ahead” signage.
- A question was asked about the white fence that was washed. Staff clarified that it was the white fence used around the Paint Dexter tent and ice rink that was washed.
- A Council Member mentioned there are other stop signs that are beyond the crosswalk. Mr. Stewart said that in one case, it may be that way due to the cars blocking the turning view. Staff will be looking into it to see if there is a code requirement.
- All RRFBs are working.
- The change in timing on the Dan Hoey/Dexter Ann Arbor crossing is complete to the best of Tim’s knowledge.
- Regarding the grass on Second St., the landscapers will be there tomorrow and one week after, adding herbicide, dirt and seed and whatever is needed. We are holding a retainer until it is complete.
- Pavers will be out Wednesday through Friday to wrap up 3rd and Broad.
- Will be holding a small tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant with Multi-Lakes Friday at 1:00pm for anyone interested.
- The final sidewalk on Third St. will be completed after the wall is finished.

2. Community Development Manager – Michelle Aniol

Ms. Aniol submitted her written report as per packet. Ms. Aniol provided the following update:

- Mayor Keough brought up the issue that occurred with Planning Commission not opening their meeting due to technical difficulties. He indicated that he feels that City boards should always open a meeting if there is a quorum, despite technical difficulties. He will be speaking to all of the meeting chairpersons to ensure they understand. He further said we could have scheduled a second public hearing to

capture the individuals that attempted to, but could not join virtually. There was additional discussion about the best approach going forward. A copy of the recording will be shared with Council Members.

- The Main Street Banner will be regulated under Section 7.09, Signs in the Public Right-of-Way in the new zoning ordinance. Signs in the public right-of-way would only be allowed as follows:
- Working with Washtenaw County Building Department related to rental inspections and property maintenance. Upon inspection, 8250 Huron appeared to be unsafe so they posted a notice and issued a stop work order. We are trying to get the property owner to follow the required processes.
- Ms. Aniol was asked to be part of the interview panel for Chelsea. She recused herself due to a conflict of interest.
- We have not yet contacted the 14 people who attended Planning Commission for the public hearing. We are scheduling a meeting with the property owners at 3670 Central. Mayor Keough said he may want to meet with the residents to hear their concerns. Ms. Aniol will get the names, addresses and corresponding comments to Mayor Keough and other Council Members.
- Ms. Aniol indicated that she noticed that Noble Appliance was closed. She reached-out and educated the business about zoning requirements and they responded and re-opened. Otherwise, there is nothing different since the previous report that they are trying to sell the building and rent back from the new owners.
- A tasting room for spirits including whiskey is applying for special use. They are not producing the spirits on site and there will be no prepared food. Some packaged snack foods such as nuts and chips may be available. It will go under special use and therefore, will go to Planning Commission and then City Council. It will be located at 3126 Broad St. in the middle unit of the old Encore building.
- Folks have stopped parking across the sidewalk on Alpine.

3. Board, Commission, & Other Reports- None

4. Subcommittee Reports - None

5. City Manager Report – Justin Breyer

Mr. Breyer submitted his written report as per packet. Mr. Breyer provided the following update:

- There was no lingering damage from the power outage. Staff did a really good job dealing with the downed trees and limbs. Generators were utilized downtown to run stop lights. Water and waste water plants were not impacted by the outage. The outage did impact City offices and the use of electronic systems. As a result, a generator for the new building may be in order, at some time in the future.
- There will be railroad work occurring from midnight to 6 a.m. The City has reached-out to determine if AMTRAK is modifying the curve of the track.
- Absentee ballots are anticipated to go out the 23rd and 24th of this month. There are several proposals on the ballot, three State proposals, two City proposals and a Library proposal.

- ACH will be hosting the S'mores and More event again this year on October 1st.
- There has been a request to modify the school zone time on Dan Hoey from 7:45 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and to relocate the post closer to Walkabout Creek. We are working with OHM to evaluate.
- There was a request for speed bumps in Westridge. Mr. Breyer provided information on why the City tries to avoid speed bumps and use enforcement instead. Discussion followed:
 - A targeted mailing to residents, listing the complaints, with follow-up enforcement by the Sheriff's Department.
 - Signage such as "We Love Our Kids"
- Questions have come from residents asking when the Fido Fountain will be installed. One option is to replace the existing fountain in Monument Park with the fountain. Council would like the Parks and Recreation Committee to make a recommendation.
- A comment was made that turning left into Mill Creek Middle School when the light is green is not possible due to traffic.
 - Mr. Breyer will request a proposal from OHM on ways to improve safe turning. Once options are provided and reviewed by City Council, Mr. Breyer will reach-out to Dr. Timmis.
- The City Hall renovation schedule was provided. There are new center column issues/solutions and cost options that will be discussed tomorrow. Soil compaction in the basement is not adequate for the type of footing they want to pour. Mr. Breyer anticipates that Council Chamber and section three of the building will be back open by November's Election Day. They started framing out the elevator pit. The elevator should be delivered in the next week or so and will be stored in the barn temporarily.

6. Mayor Report – Shawn Keough

Mr. Keough submitted his written report as per packet. Mr. Keough provided the following update:

- Had a conversation with David Lutton and the Scio Township Supervisor. The Supervisor does not feel the Scio Township Board is interested in a 425 Agreement. Mr. Lutton may look at a smaller project as a result.
- On August 31st Mr. Keough attended the Dexter Chamber of Commerce Meeting. They are interested in helping with the bi-centennial in 2024 and heading up a parade. As a City, we need to decide what we want to do, how do we want to do it, select the date(s) and the main event. The Arts/Culture/Heritage Committee is going through a list of activities.
- Suds on the River was well attended again this year, almost 400 people. It was held in Delhi Metropark this year.

7. Council Member Reports – None

K. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Consideration of: Bills & Payroll in the amount of: \$418,834.78
2. Consideration of: Closure of Central St. from Main to Fifth for Apple Daze Road Closure

Motion Fisher; support Hubbard to approve items 1-2 of the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Michels, Fisher, Griffin, Arab, Hubbard, Keough

Nays: None

Absent: Cousins

Motion carries

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS-Consideration and Discussion of: None

M. NEW BUSINESS-Consideration and Discussion of:

1. Consideration of: Connecting Communities Grant Application Resolution – Grand St. Connector.

Motion Fisher; support Hubbard to approve the resolution to apply for a Connecting Communities Grant for the Grand Street Connector project.

Ayes: Michels, Fisher, Arab, Griffin, Hubbard, Keough

Nays: None

Absent: Cousins

Motion carries

2. Discussion of: Fire Station Design and Millage Informational Publication(s)

Discussion Included:

- The user group includes Councilperson Arab, Interim Chief Armstrong, David Gassen-Partners in Architecture (PIA) and Mr. Breyer. They have had two meetings thus far, looking at documents such as floor plans, site plans and 3D renderings.
- The goal is to look at what can be done with the budget that was approved.
- Friday the 16th is the final meeting to have it ready for the next City Council packet. Millage publications/educational documents have been pulled from other communities such as Green Oak Township as examples/guides for our educational materials. A draft was presented to City Council Members. The final document can be included in the City's Newsletter and e-mail update.
- A suggestion was made to include the City's millage rate increase history to show increases have been primarily due to Washtenaw County not the City of Dexter.
- Floorplans, cost breakdowns and 3D pictures will be made available to Council Members prior to the next City Council meeting. Mr. Breyer would like to run everything past the City Attorney to ensure it is all legal.

- Council would like to share an appealing building rendering in the information packet that goes out to residents.
- A suggestion was made to have the approval of City residents before spending money on the costly formal design process.
- We should look at what building materials will yield the best value.

N. COUNCIL COMMENTS (paraphrased or summarized by Recording Secretary)

Michels: Have heard from folks that are concerned they do not know what they are voting for related to the fire station.

Cousins: Absent

Fisher: None

Arab: None

Hubbard: Would have appreciated hearing Zach's comment earlier so we could have discussed the issue.

Griffin: None

Student Representatives:

DeGregorio: Absent

Keating: None

O. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION

Mr. Joe Semifero, 3214 Boulder Court Dexter, MI. The speeding complaint about Westridge is not a new one. It is the same one from 10-12 years ago. A radar sign was put in place to collect data and then see what happened after it was removed. Past use showed speeding was rare. The streets were set up to have parking on one side only and they are narrow. I personally went out and talked to the neighbor when my son was chewed out by a neighbor even though he was not speeding. The neighbor complained that the driver should have slowed down when children were at play. One thought is to put the radar up again and see what the data shows. There are other options other than speed bumps, such as roundabouts, etc. Traffic engineers would likely have suggestions.

Regarding the fire station, there will be people approaching City Council Members in different ways. Some will be in support and some will not. This discussion has been going on for 4 years. Do not worry about the next Council. The majority of you will be that next Council. I hope each of you will encourage city residents and support what is happening.

P. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Arab; support Fisher to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM.

Unanimous voice vote approval with Cousins absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Breyer
City Manager and City Clerk

Approved for Filing: _____